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Flooded with rare praise

by Will Nicholls

This space is often devoted to commenting on social problems and criticizing the weak responses to them by different levels of government, businesses and other organizations. This editorial is a departure from that habit.

Instead, I want to acknowledge and praise the efforts to deal with the spring floods that are threatening northern communities in James Bay. Coastal communities such as Attawapiskat, Moose Factory, Moosonee, Fort Albany and Kashechewan have been affected by rising waters in the Ontario portion of James Bay. Kashechewan and Attawapiskat have declared a state of emergency.

The western side of James Bay is no stranger to flooding. Ripley's Believe It Or Not listed Moose Factory's Anglican Church as one of the holiest in the world when it floated away one such inundation. That's why the church had holes cut into the floor: the wooden plugs would be pulled out each spring so it would not float away again.

While this example is amusing, the reality is far more serious. A heavy snowpack quickly melted by soaring temperatures is causing the floods, which have shut down electricity and water systems while raw sewage overflows into homes and other buildings. In Attawapiskat the hospital had to be evacuated. Already 900 Kashechewan inhabitants have been moved to safety, and the remainder of the community's 1500 residents may have to follow. Moosonee and Moose Factory moved 200 residents from their homes. Emergency Management Ontario said eight communities are under state of emergency warnings.

Community members are now in places such as Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Cornwall and Kapuskasing. Provincial and federal spokespersons say the clean-up to be costly. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) will be covering the costs of the evacuations. But the province and local communities have also stepped up to lend a helping hand. Thunder Bay's municipal council even provided bus passes to help people get around the city, where they are expected to remain for at least a month. Mayor Keith Hobbs said Thunder Bay will "assist our neighbours in need," and they know "first-hand how devastating a flood can be."

AANDC Minister Bernard Valcourt promised to work with provincial and local organizations to ensure the health, safety and safe return of affected community members as soon as possible. The minister's parliamentary secretary, Kenora MP Greg Rickford, met evacuees to get their ideas on how the government should respond to the flooding. Valcourt also reached out to the leadership in each of the three Northern Ontario First Nations most seriously affected by flooding – Kashechewan, Fort Albany and Attawapiskat – "to reiterate our government's commitment to working with them."

Given past historical responses to most Aboriginal problems it is a pleasant and welcome surprise to see quick action and effective cooperation on the part of governments at different levels. People have taken appropriate steps to deal with the emergency caused by the floods. Overall, it's a job well done with a welcome dash of humanity.

Contents

editorial

Flooded with rare praise 3

rez notes

On hold 4

news

Goose Break evolves 5

End-of-life care 7

features

Summer fun 10

Romeo Saganash discusses residential school's impact 32

Chisasibi's Ancita Bugden 34

Wearing Our Identities 36

UTNS

Everything will work out in the end 39



Romeo Saganash in the media scrum following his statement

photo by:
Jesse Staniforth



Rez Notes on hold while Sonny hunts...



Are you planning to toss your name in this years election for Grand Chief or Deputy Grand Chief? If so let us know as soon as possible by emailing Amy German at amy.german@gmail.com or nation@beesum-communications.com so we can book your interview. Voters want to hear from you!

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Changing with the climate

Goose Break evolves as hunters face new challenges

by Akiva Levitas

The 2013 Goose Break got off to a good start without the early thaw that has hampered recent years.

Eeyou Istchee communities have become ghost towns as most folks have left for their traditional shooting grounds. Many are contemplating extending the break to take advantage of a strong geese migration. “Everyone’s gone out for the break,” said Shirley Moss, Executive Secretary to the Chief of Eastmain. “The Chief might even extend his outing, if it’s good hunting out there.”

Getting a first goose is a moment of pride for many young hunters who have passed that milestone during this Goose Break. Randy Mapachee, a 14-year-old from Washaw Sibi, bagged his first goose on April 15 by the Harricana River.

Being the first to get a goose in each community is another achievement for any hunter. Arthur Bosum, from Ouje-Bougoumou, shot the community’s first goose on April 20 by Lac Laura near Chapais. And in Mistissini on April 22, Don Macleod, President of the Auberge Mistissini Lodge, got the first goose of the year around Mistassini Post.

Many were able to travel to their goose camps by snow machine this spring. Last year’s unusually warm weather hampered the hunt. “Many weren’t able to travel to their camps because of the early melt,” noted Sam Shecapio of Waskaganish. “Some were able to go by helicopter, but the high price made it difficult for most.”

An early spring thaw is dangerous as people can get trapped or injured in a rapidly changing landscape with over-flowing rivers.

The recent warm weather, however, has caused several road washouts from rapidly melting snow. “A lot of it has been happening around the inland Cree communities,” said Cree Radio Network host Roderick Rabbitskin of Mistissini. Highways around Nemaska, Chibougamau and Ouje-Bougoumou were flooded in late April to early May and required emergency repairs.

It is hard to determine exactly how climate change is affected migrating geese on their annual journey to Arctic breeding grounds. But their flight paths are changing noticeably with every passing year. Many lakes that are usually frozen at this time of year are now ice free. Along with the serious danger of travelling by skidoo over thin ice, the warming climate is shortening the season for Cree goose hunters.



Don Macleod got the first goose of the year around Mistassini.

That’s why some hunters now start their season earlier by heading to Ontario, where there geese migrations happen earlier in the year, and where local residents welcome income from the hunters. The community of Alfred, half way between Montreal and Ottawa, is a favourite among growing numbers of Cree hunters seeking a head start to the goose-hunting season.

“Three years ago it was only a handful of people going down south,” said Sam Shecapio of Waskaganish. “Now whole families go to Ontario during Goose Break and the fall.”

As the extended Goose Break comes to a close, the summer fishing season is right around the corner. We hope that your Goose Break was bountiful in both the memories shared with family and the number of geese harvested.



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End-of-life conversations

American writer Will Schwalbe discusses final days with his dying mother

by Akiva Levitas

Death is a difficult part of life, one that we all have to go deal with. For family and friends taking care of their loved ones who are facing their last few moments of life, waking up alive every morning becomes a precious gift. In the end, it is how we as a society take care of our Elders to ensure that their legacy will be passed on to the next generation.

Bringing up the subject of death can be futile as many want to focus on their life rather than prepare for a world without their loved ones. But by talking about this difficult subject when a critical situation occurs, you can better prepare yourself.

During National Palliative Care Week, McGill University's Council of Palliative Care brought two *New York Times* bestselling authors together on May 7 for the 16th annual Sandra Goldberg Lecture series, titled *Lessons in Living from the Dying*.

At the start of the week, the Quebec government announced a \$15 million investment to improve palliative home-care services in the province. "Palliative care is about pain and symptom control, which is an area where there have been many advances," said Council of Palliative Care co-chair Kappy Flanders. "But I don't think that palliative care has changed very much. People have always died. Some people know how to handle it and some people don't. The only way it has changed is if we get more people involved and pass on the knowledge."

For the first time in the history of the lecture series, a non-medical professional was invited to discuss the role of palliative care from his own experience with his mother. American writer Will Schwalbe, author of *The End of Your Life Book Club*, and Louise Penny, former CBC journalist and author of the Inspector Gamache novel series, discussed the contents of Schwalbe's book



Will Schwalbe and Louise Perry signing books at the Sandra Goldberg Lecture Series.

about caring for his mother after she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

"After writing the book people would come up to me and tell me how the book helped me bring closure to my mother's death," Schwalbe said. "But I didn't want closure, I wanted to keep the conversation going and that's what I feel the book helped me accomplish."

The End of Your Life Book Club chronicles the two-person book club Schwalbe formed with his mother, Mary Anne Schwalbe, after she received her diagnosis.

The two would discuss the books they had read, but Schwalbe's thoughtful and witty banter in his book underlines a story of discovery between a son and his mother as he finds out more about her as person and what motivated her throughout life.

"Losing the memory of a loved one is like losing them all over again," Schwalbe said, explaining that the process of dealing with the passing is about the struggle to keep the memory alive.

The main lesson from Schwalbe's book is to make sure to spend some time with your loved ones in their times

of need and to let them open up when they are comfortable to talk about serious things, but also to laugh and converse as normal. "My advice is to engage with people on the subjects they love," Schwalbe said. "For me the greatest gift was continuing to enjoy my mother's life while she was still alive."

Schwalbe praised the dedication and tenderness of the palliative-care professionals who helped both mother and son over the length of her end-of-life journey. The non-intrusive care they provide allows patients to die with dignity and, more importantly, to live to the best of their ability until the moment of their passing.

Schwalbe had some advice for younger members of the Cree communities who have access to their Elders. "Now is the time to ask questions. Ask questions about your Elders' lives and their experiences. And try to get their stories inasmuch as they want to tell them. It's a great opportunity to make sure these stories don't die but really live on."

Flooding leaves Attawapiskat, Kashechewan in state of emergency

Both Attawapiskat and Kashechewan First Nations declared a state of emergency April 30 after rapidly melting snow caused major sewer backups that fouled homes and other buildings.

Hundreds were evacuated from Kashechewan throughout the week, as were some patients from the Attawapiskat hospital.

"The spring runoff overloaded our sewer system, and so the hospital sewage tank was dangerously close to capacity," said De-Anne Sheppard, director of patient care at the Attawapiskat hospital.

Prompt action by hospital staff to evacuate 10 patients and to move operations to the community's healthcare centre helped prevent the tank from overflowing. Sewage levels in the tank receded by May 2, and nurses were able to return to the hospital to accept patients. However, damage to nurse housing units cut available staff at the facility by half, from 16 to eight.

At least nine homes in the community were affected by the sewage overflow, but no evacuations were deemed necessary. Sheppard said that seven community members had been treated for gastroenteritis-like symptoms, likely caused by water contamination.

"This is the first time we've experienced a problem this bad with flooding from melting snow in the community," said Attawapiskat Deputy Chief Gerald Mattinas, noting that the basements of many of the affected homes would require extensive restoration before their residents could return.



Val-d'Or Quality Inn has won Choice Hotels Canada's 2013 Platinum Hospitality Award

Quality Inn Val-d'Or wins Platinum Award

The Val-d'Or Quality Inn has been awarded a Choice Hotels Canada's 2013 Platinum Hospitality Award. The award places the establishment within the top three percent of over 300 hotels, making it one of only 10 properties in Canada to receive such recognition. The inn, owned by CREECO & Trahan Holdings, earned its ranking based on guest surveys and third-party reviews.

An Origin(e)-al take on Aboriginal tourism

Quebec Aboriginal Tourism (QAT) has launched a new magazine aimed at developing tourism in Quebec's First Nations and Inuit communities.

The first of its kind in Canada, Origin(e) is an annual publication that will provide an in-depth look at the unique cultural and natural attractions that Aboriginal communities in Quebec have to offer visitors from around the world.

"The magazine format allows us to share knowledge about First Nations culture," said QAT marketing advisor Sébastien Desnoyers Picard. "We want people to see that this isn't just a place to visit, but also a place to learn about the culture of the First Nations people."

The 84-page inaugural edition features a section dedicated to each of Quebec's 10 major Aboriginal economic sectors. As of April 30, over 40,000 bilingual issues had been distributed to Tourist Information Centres across the province. Although Picard hopes the magazine's message will find an international audience, a large part of the publication's focus will be to continue to attract tourists from within the province.

"A study we conducted in 2011 showed that 55% to 60% of tourists visiting Aboriginal locales come from within Quebec," said Picard.

Attracting over 800,000 visitors annually, tourism in Aboriginal Quebec generates 3,500 jobs and over \$160 million in revenues.

Wind power plant study blows into Whapmagootsui

A study to assess the potential of a wind hybrid power-plant will be conducted in Whapmagootsui. The research is part of a national \$82 million clean-energy initiative announced by the federal government May 3.

The government has budgeted \$700,275 to finance a Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) study to determine the technological and economic feasibility of hybrid wind energy in northern conditions.

The study is the first step toward the construction of a complete wind hybrid power plant, which would be used to combine wind, biomass and solar power to produce electricity for the Whapmagootsui community.

The goal is to replace Whapmagootsui's existing power plant with a greener, more efficient alternative.

"We're hoping this technology will help to create alternatives for other northern communities like ours to use renewable energy instead of burning diesel fuel," says Whapmagootsui chief Stanley George.

Nimschu-Iskudow Inc. is the group behind the clean energy initiative. Even if the study confirms the project's feasibility, Vice-President Sam W. Gull says it is still dependent on successfully negotiating a Power Purchasing Agreement

with Hydro-Québec. The agreement would allow Nimschu-Iskudow to sell excess power to Hydro-Québec.

"We have the financial partners we need on board," said Gull, adding that he expects the study to help secure more government funding and expedite negotiations with Hydro-Québec.

There are 55 other projects across Canada with similar environmental goals that were also approved for grant money as part of Natural Resources Canada's ecoENERGY Innovation Initiative.

Hotel project bedding down in Waswanipi

A new hotel project that could potentially create 14 jobs and generate more tourism is on the drawing board for Waswanipi.

John Kitchen, a Waswanipi resident and President of Mamu Sibi Construction Inc., is planning to open the new establishment with his wife, Erca Polson.

"We're looking at a 20-room, two-story hotel that will be a three-star establishment," said Kitchen.

The \$2.7 million project has been in the works for a number of years, but Kitchen claims that last year's provincial elections slowed the approval of government grants that are vital to the project. Now that the bureaucratic process is nearly completed, Kitchen

and Polson plan to start construction of the hotel this summer.

"We're going to start building when the snow melts and the funding is secured. We hope to have it finished by Christmas," Kitchen said.

The establishment will offer a number of services to tourists and community members, including exercise facilities, a 35-person conference room, a garage for snowmobiles, wireless internet and a restaurant.

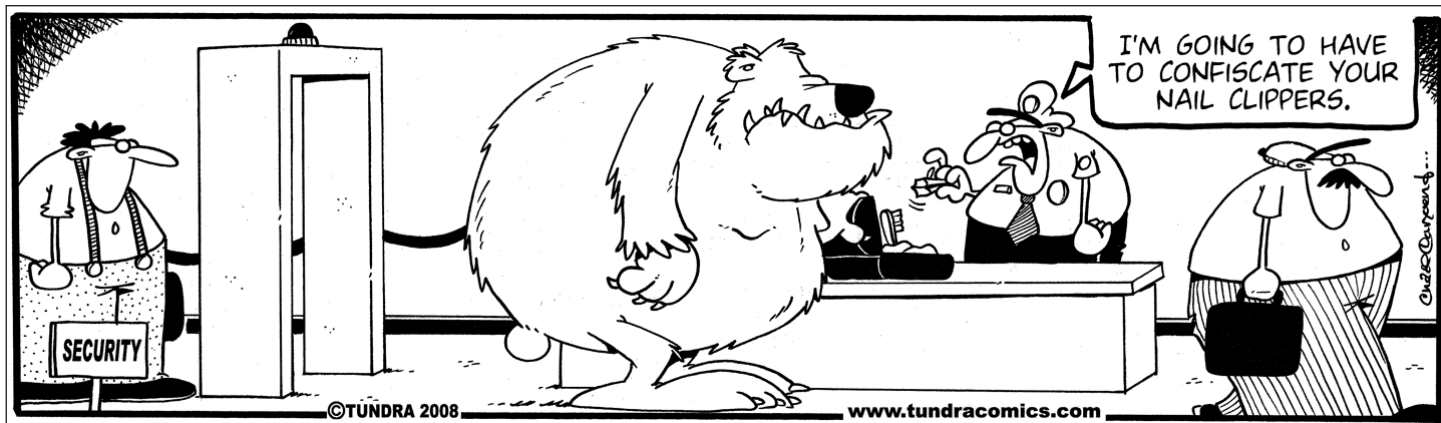
Kitchen hopes to attach the new hotel to Valerie's, a small restaurant on Highway 113 that closed a number of years ago. Although the sale of Valerie's has yet to be finalized, Kitchen is confident that the project will develop quickly in the coming months.

"Right now we're just working on the financial aspects," he said. "Most people are in agreement that this is a positive thing and we have good support from the chief and council."

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077 or write us at news@beesum-communications.com and we'll look into your story. If you don't contact us, your voice won't be heard!





feature

Taking summer holidays by the horns

The Nation's annual provincial guide to a
plethora of summer fun

by Amy German

While some Cree communities may still be experiencing the occasional snow shower or are watching the first signs of spring as the geese return north to be plucked by some anxiously awaiting Crees, down south the heat has already begun.

While certain folks may be tucking into their first spring goose as they read this story, it won't be long before your summer vacation rolls around and so it's never too early to start planning.

Whether you are looking to enjoy a major music festival, flex your muscles with something physical, take your little ones to something family-friendly or soak up local culture, Quebec is the kind of destination that makes other places pale in comparison.

Once more, Montreal features so many festivals and cultural events, that you can easily enjoy everything from professional sports to incredible music to top-of-the-line cuisine without having to travel far.

While the cities have their own delights, if you are looking to cool off in the countryside, the Nation has the 411 on that, listing off every water park, zoo, family attraction and festivity we could find.

And so without any further ado, here is the 2013 guide to making the best of your time over the coming summer months.

Montreal

Due to the incredible volume of activities happening from May to September, Quebec's largest and liveliest city gets its own listings section.

May

If you've ever wanted to know how many Montreal museums you can see in a day without spending a dime on admissions, Montreal Museums Day is the perfect event for you.

A major hit amongst families and patrons for the last 27 years, Museums Day sees the doors open to 34 different museums, absolutely free, as well as free transportation from destination to destination provided, courtesy of the Société de transport de Montréal.

Whether you are looking for an artistic feast for your eyes, hours of learning about our natural environment, climates, planets, plants, archeology, history and just about everything under and including the sun, Montreal has a museum for it.

This year's event will be celebrated on May 26.

For more info: www.museesmontreal.org

The Montreal Bike Fest

While the name at first might conjure up images of leather-clad men on Harleys, the Montreal Bike Fest is all about celebrating two-wheeled vehicles, sans the motors.

If you happen to be in Montreal May 26-June 2, there is no better time to take an amateur bike tour, enjoy the world famous Tour de l'Île, go cycling with the kids, cycle downtown when it is devoid of cars or do a major nighttime cycling event.

This cycling event features four mega-events that offer something for just about everyone in the family.

Starting with the Metropolitan Challenge on May 26, participants are invited to start out in Saint-Lazare for a lengthy, but breathtaking tour around the island of Montreal.

Then on Bike-to-Work Day, anyone and everyone in the downtown core is urged to cycle to work if possible to promote not only healthier but much greener living.



May 31 sees the return of the popular Tour de la Nuit, a zany late night cycling tour that features wildly dressed cyclists taking in the city's breathtaking sights on a casual, after-dark excursion.

The week culminates with the Tour de l'Île on June 2, for those really looking for a major cycling challenge. This year the tour is offering five different route options so that those who aren't professional cyclists or families who want to get out with the kids can enjoy a fabulous day of athleticism. The event wraps up with a large party to celebrate the race.

For more info:
www.veloquebec.info/



From May 29th to June 2nd, the 14th edition of MUTEK will once again take up its mission to celebrate electronic music and digital creativity

MUTEK

If electronic music and avant-gardism are your bag and you want to check out the best of electronic music and arts, look no further than MUTEK's annual event, running May 29-June 2.

Dedicated to the "dissemination and development of digital creativity in sound, music and audio-visual art" since 2000, this non-profit group puts on one of Canada's most stellar electronic events and with each year it only gets better.

So far the lineup includes: Âme, Andy Stott, Boundary, Brant Brauer Frick, Deadbeat, Efdemin, Emika, Emptyset, Franck Vigroux & Antoine Schmitt, Frivolous, Graze, Jamie Lidell, John Roberts, John Talabot, Tejada, Jon Hopkins, Juju & Jordash, Laurel Halo, Robert Hood, Ryoichi Kurokawa, Saschienne, Space Dimension Controller, The Field and Wishmountain.

For more info: www.mutek.org/

Mondial de la bière

If beers from around the world are more your pleasure, the Mondial de la bière is the ultimate in celebrating and sampling some of the best brews from across the globe while hobnobbing with fellow novices and enthusiasts.

Celebrating its 20th edition, this homegrown festival has expanded tremendously over the years, having recently moved to Palais des Congrès to meet its supersized needs. Over the years, this event has seen the presenta-

tion and promotion of several thousand different products ranging from big-name domestic and imported brews to just about every kind of artisanal product out there to all sorts of Quebec-made products.

Running May 29-June 2, the festival features all sorts of events to learn about how to pair these products with different meals and also how to cook with them for those looking at how to incorporate these new flavours into your everyday meals.

Once more, the beer fest is a wonderful way to develop your palate for beer at a nominal fee as admission is free and tastings of three to four ounces range from two to six coupons (for most beers) with tickets going at \$1 a pop.

For more info: <http://festivalmondial-biere.qc.ca/>

June

St-Ambroise Fringe Festival

For fans of drama, comedy, dance, spoken word, folk/ rock/ hip-hop, performance art, amateur wrestling, drag acts, fire eating and just about anything else you can put on a stage and sell tickets too (without nudity), the St-Ambroise Fringe Festival is back to rock your socks off June 3-23.

With over 20 days of mind-blowing amateur and professional theatre and an assortment of other forms of entertainment, this event is a gem in the hearts of many Montrealers and tourists.

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The Fringe festival

Whether you have been to fringe theatre shows before or not, there is no time like the present to take in some of these fabulous and thought-provoking shows and concerts. Or, if you just want to dip a toe into the magical fringe pond, enjoy a free live show on the outdoor stage at Fringe Central, located at the corner of St-Laurent and Rachel streets in the heart of Montreal's Plateau district.

Now in its 22nd edition, the Fringe festival had over 62,500 patrons take in events last year.

This year's event will feature local performers as well as visiting troupes from all over Canada, the U.S., Australia and France.

For more info:
montrealfringe.ca

Suoni Per Il Popolo Festival

If you are all about finding out what lies within the heart of the common man/woman by hearing the voices of the people, this small-time fest is all about showcasing big-time heart!

Running June 5-22, this handmade festival is the antithesis to large corporate festivals like the Jazz Fest. It showcases the best of the avant garde to provide dynamic, community-based leftfield music to those who enjoy it most. This festival also features a wide variety of less mainstream genres of music, such as free jazz, hip-hop, noise, world/global, electronica, soundscapes, experimental folk, rock and pop, and musique actuelle.

With a huge, mouthwatering lineup just waiting for your discovery, this small club concert series is put on by Casa del Popolo.

For more info:
suoniperilpopolo.org

Montreal Grand Prix

If professional automobile racing is what really gets your motor running, there ain't no better weekend to get your groove on than June 7-9, when the Grand Prix du Canada returns to Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

Running parallel with North America's only major Formula 1 racing event are a series of major parties throughout the city, with major street fairs on both Crescent and St-Laurent streets.



Montreal Grand Prix

While many come down for the race itself, the endless amount of fanfare throughout the city is enough to get your blood-a-pumping for the entire three days, between the incredible vintage and luxury automobile displays, major DJ parties, restaurant events, fashion events, and live concerts.

For those looking to kick off race weekend in style, for the third year in a row "The Grand Evening", a benefit

soiree that will serve as the official opening event of the 2013 Grand Prix du Canada is also back on June 6.

Bringing together many powerhouses and elite from Montreal's business community, this glitzy soiree is all about coming together to raise money for Montreal's Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur.

For more info:
www.circuitgillesvilleneuve.ca

The Montreal Folk Fest on the Canal

Folk music fans can rejoice in the fact that Montreal's only exclusively folk festival is back for three exciting days in June.

Running June 12-14, this intimate but punch-packing event will feature legendary Roger McGuinn (The Byrds), Tim O'Brien and The Travelin' McCourys as headliners for the indoor shows.

The fest features all sorts of live acts on the St-Ambroise Terrace, located behind the McAuslan Brewery (5080 St-Ambroise St.) along the historic Lachine Canal.

For more info:
montrealfolkfest.com

FIMA

If you've ever wanted to explore local art from all over the province as well as fabulous works from all around the world in a one-of-a-kind outdoor setting, look no further than the FIMA (Festival International Montréal en Arts) is the greatest open-air art gallery in eastern Canada.

Running June 12-16, this festival transforms a one-kilometre stretch of St.



The Travelin' McCourys

Catherine St. East into the “BoulevArt,” lined with artistic works and fanfare for patrons to purchase or simply enjoy. This is a family-friendly event for both the young and old.

For more info:
www.festivaldesarts.org

Les Francololies

For those folks out there that just love a boisterous, bountiful, big-budget festival with all of the bells and whistles, the first mega grand slam of



Robert Charlebois

an event on Montreal’s dance card is les Francololies, the ultimate in French music.

Running June 13-22, North America’s largest francophone music festival is now in its 25th edition and celebrating, but it is the fest’s patrons who are getting all of the spoiling.

This year’s event includes all sorts of goodies, such as indoor shows featuring Isabelle Boulay, Paul Piché, Diane Tell, Pierre Flynn, Bruno Pelletier, Marie-Jo Therio, Danielle Oddera and Benoit Sarrasin all performing the works of Jacques Brel.

Québécois country star Paul Daraïche will perform hits from his 45-year career with the likes of Laurence Jalbert, Patrick Norman and Mario Pelchat.

To celebrate the last 25 years, Les Franco is putting on several retrospectives that highlight its history and the entertainers who have helped make it so famous.

Robert Charlebois will mark his 50 years in the Québécois music industry with special guests Ingrid St-Pierre,

Dumas, Les Trois Accords, Ariane Moffatt and Louise Forestier.

Local rock heroes Les Colocs will kick out the jams with folksy wonder Paul Cargnello.

For more info:
www.francofolies.com

L'International des Feux Loto-Québec

If professional and competitive fireworks, all set to music and put on in the beauty of the Old Port sound like an incredible night out for you, then check out the 29th edition of the L'International des Feux Loto-Québec running June 22-August 3.

This year’s competition will include firework displays on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, featuring all sorts of unique themes, the first-time participation for Croatia and a tribute to Irish rock band U2.

This year’s participants in order of appearance are Australia, England, Hong Kong/China, Spain, the U.S., Croatia, Canada and Italy. The event will culminate with a special closing tribute to U2, titled Finale des Étoiles Loto-Québec, on August 3.

For more info: www.internationaldesfeuxloto-quebec.com

National Aboriginal Day

The folks at the Terre en vues/Land InSights, First People’s Festival will once again be handling festivities for National

Aboriginal Day and will be making announcements later this month to confirm all of their festivities.

For the time being they can confirm that on June 21 they will be hosting a traditional ceremony at Place Jacques Cartier, starting at 11:00 am.

For more info:
www.nativelynx.qc.ca/en

La Fête nationale du Québec à Montréal

Every nation likes to celebrate itself, and Quebec is no exception. Les Québécois live it up every June 24 as they mark the Fête nationale du Québec, formerly known as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day.

In the past, the province has seen wide array of major celebrities take to outdoor stages in Montreal’s many parks, and celebrated with parades and fireworks.

So far the lineup for this year’s event has not been released.

For more info:
www.fetenationale-montreal.qc.ca

Montreal International Jazz Festival

The city’s biggest, fattest, craziest mega-festival is none other than the Jazz Fest and, with another 10 jam-packed days of back-to-back entertainment, you may as well just install their new mobile phone app to keep on top of things as you might need a little assistance to maximize all your attendance with so much happening.



L'International des Feux Loto-Québec



American rock musician Chris Isaak will be performing at this year's Jazz Fest.

Whether it is traditional jazz, blues, folk, roots, hip-hop, Motown, R&B, rock, pop or a very special evening with the Queen of Soul herself, Aretha Franklin, this year's event has it all.

Running June 28-July 7, the fest will feature a large number of indoor shows in different venues and entertainment that runs from morning until the wee hours of the morning on the many outdoor stages set up in Montreal's gorgeously revamped Quartier des Spectacles.

Stop by to check out what is playing on the spur of the moment or plan your every moment with the many incredible shows that will be featured.

Tickets are already on sale for the following: Aretha Franklin, Wayne Shorter, Chucho Valdés, George Benson, Oliver

Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Joshua Redman, John Abercrombie, Ravi Coltrane, Bill Frisell, Holly Cole, Boz Scaggs, The Specials, Belle & Sebastian, The Cat Empire, Trombone Shorty, Caravan Palace, Serena Ryder, Jason Moran, Austra, Mother Mother, Rhye, Thus:Owls, SUUNS, Woodkid, She & Him, Vieux Farka Touré, Alpha Blondy, Xavier Rudd, Alex Cuba and Nikki Yanofsky.

Be sure to check out these incredible double bill shows to double your listening entertainment: Lyle Lovett and Chris Isaak, Dr. John & The Nite Trippers and Leon Russell, Champion and his G-Strings with I Musici, Katia and Marielle Labèque.

So far the only outdoor show that's been announced is Canadian indie

songstress Feist on June 28 at 9:30 pm, who will kick off the first night of the festival. Check the Jazz Fest website later on for more details.

For more info:
www.montrealjazzfest.com

July

Start July in style by taking in Montreal's magical Canada Day celebrations in Montreal's Old Port July 1.

With events going on from early morning until late at night, there is something for everybody on Canada's birthday.

Featuring a special kid's play village comprised of all sorts of bouncy structures, face painting, animators and a plethora of fun-themed activities, the

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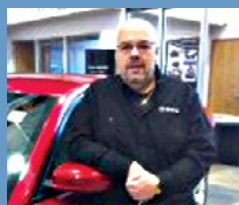
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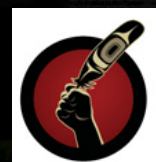
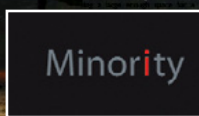
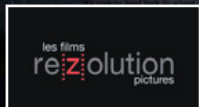
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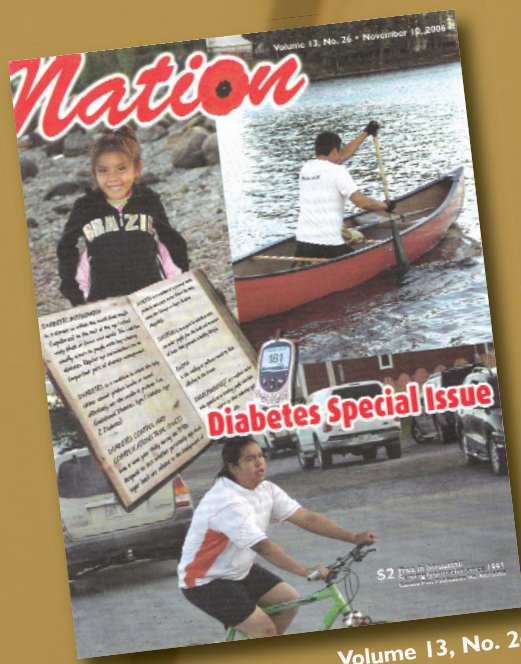
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The *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20th Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 12 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20th collector's edition issue.



November 10, 2006

Waswanipi sawmill closed - again Domtar deal blamed for putting 80 people out of work

By Steve Bonspiel

The crisis in Quebec's forest industry has hit the Waswanipi sawmill. The mill officially suspended operations for the third time in its history on September 21 due to a sagging lumber market and poor economic outlook for the year, according to Jack Blacksmith, Director General of the Mishtuk Corporation, which operates the mill.

"We knew our mill was starting to get into trouble in terms of the prices being paid for wood products," Blacksmith told the *Nation*. "Our agreement with Domtar states that we decide whatever issue we face together. We haven't had a good relationship with them and they knew that our sawmill was losing money. Towards May and June of this year we started realizing we were losing a lot more than we were getting in terms of revenue."

Mishtuk is a 50-50 partner in the mill, which opened in the mid-1990s, with Domtar. Under this partnership, called Nabakatuk Corporation, the Quebec forestry giant has right of first refusal for Mishtuk's forestry products.

John Kitchen, the newly elected Chief of the community, met with Domtar in early September to get their take on how they should proceed. It was agreed that they would suspend operations for six months, the maximum allowable time under Quebec labour law.

Nabakatuk's 80 employees were forced to seek unemployment benefits. Many, said Blacksmith, didn't seem to mind because it was moose hunting season and they wanted time off anyway.

Favorite covers from Vol. 13 series



20th flashback brought to you by
Niskamoon Corporation



Since its incorporation in 2004, Niskamoon Corporation has always strived to develop innovative ways to bring our many programs to Cree beneficiaries. Our goal is to promote traditional Cree customs and practices, while at the same time fostering the development of the Cree Nation for the benefit of future generations.

Thanks to the hard work of our employees and the collaboration of our many partners, we have successfully implemented many different programs, ranging from the training of Crees for skilled jobs with Hydro-Quebec (over 50 Crees now occupy permanent positions), the rejuvenation of Cree community and family fisheries, the support of numerous cultural activities including summer gatherings and the enhancement of goose hunting facilities. This is not to mention the hundreds of kilometres of snowmobile and ATV trails already built throughout Eeyou Istchee.

On its 20th anniversary, Niskamoon Corporation salutes The Nation magazine and wishes it many more years of success and positive change.



COUNTDOWN TO 20TH.... 12 ISSUES LEFT

www.niskamoon.org



The International Festival of Circus Arts

entire family can participate in celebrating what makes Canada so special.

And, because what is a birthday party without a birthday cake, 1000 pieces of cake will be handed out as is the Montreal tradition.

As the day progresses the tone of the event becomes geared towards the bigger kids and then those who are kids at heart with all sorts of live music shows, DJ dance parties, and fireworks.

For more info:
www.canadadaymontreal.org/

International Circus Arts Festival

If spellbinding, death-defying and ultimately mind-blowing circus-style entertainment is what you and your family are looking for this summer, look no further than Montréal Complètement Cirque, the city's only large-scale circus-style festival, running July 3-13.

Importing circus acts from around the world, this is the ultimate event to see contortionists contort, acrobatics by the finest acrobats, dramatic dances, and fiery fire throwers.

Featuring a parade of performers as well as daytime and nighttime entertainment, this incredible event is put on by Montreal's TOHU and can be enjoyed by the young and old alike.

For more info:
montrealcompletementcirque.com

Just for Laughs

When it comes to comedy, no other festival does it as right as Montreal's Just for Laughs. With gala after gala featuring so many big names, downtown Montreal could easily be mistaken for Los Angeles. You can pretty much bet that if they are big or on the verge of being big, they will have told jokes in Montreal.

While this year's full lineup isn't available yet, the festival (running July 10-28) was able to confirm the following names for their popular show series. The Nasty Show will be hosted by Bobby Slayton and will feature Jimmy Carr. The Ethnic Show: Ethnical Difficulties will get Shaun Majumder as a host and feature Fahim Anwar. While Date Night: The Relationship Show will be hosted by Godfrey and feature Debra DiGiovanni and Bob Marley.

For more info: www.hahaha.com

Festival international Nuits d'Afrique

Scintillating, stimulating and sublime, the Festival international Nuits d'Afrique runs July 9-21 and serves up a whole multidisciplinary approach to arts of Africa and of those of African descent. Featuring music, visual arts, dance, a film festival and four jam-packed days at the Quartier des Spectacles festival space downtown, this is a great event to

immerse yourself into a diverse cultural world.

This year's event will feature a record-breaking 91 shows and workshops given by more than 500 artists from 32 countries as well as five incredible concert series that will be performed in seven different indoor venues.

The Parterre du Quartier des Spectacles will feature four days of free events with 28 concerts on the Loto-Québec stage and eight open-air workshops as well as 25 different kinds of activities at the Agor'Afrique, four mini parades, a Children's Village and the Timbuktu Market, an authentic African-style market with 44 craftspeople on site making authentic goods.

Plus, every evening at 8:00pm, the festival will feature projections of live sets on the façade of the Maison symphonique de Montréal.

For more info:
www.festivalnuitsdafrique.com

Fantasia Film Festival

If the heat of a Montreal summer has left you feeling listless and you've grown tired of sweating under the sun, Montreal's annual Fantasia Film Festival is a fine form of escapism and a feast for the imagination.

Running July 18-August 6, this fantastic cinematic experience brings some of the best films from Asia as well as an assortment from the U.S., Europe and around the globe. Patrons get the chance to experience an entire world of film they may not have known otherwise. Many a classic is also screened at this event, giving younger generations the opportunity to fall in love with some cherished films.

This year's program has yet to be posted, so check its website later.

For more info:
www.festivalfantasia.com/2012/en

The Montreal International Dragon Boat Races

While most festivals are about music, art and performers, the stars of the Dragon Boat Race Festival are the ancient-style Chinese boats and the racers who push them to the limit to win.

Running July 19-21, the 2013 edition of this fabulous free event takes place in Montreal's Olympic Basin and offers a taste of Chinese culture along with a race that has 2295 years of tradition. Featuring Chinese fare, live entertainment, various arts and crafts, and the popular Children Drawing Contest, this is a fun event for the whole family to enjoy and learn from.

For more info:
www.montrealdragonboat.com

MEG

For the last 15 years, Montreal's Electronic Groove Festival or MEG has been serving up the best of local electronic music as well as some of the best from around the globe.

Over the years, this festival has brought names like James Murphy, MIA, Justice, Chromeo, Brodinski, Gesaffelstein, Tiga, Le Tigre, Santogold, and Fisherspooner to Montreal.

Running July 25-August 3, this year's event features a wide variety of electronic music, pop and hip-hop shows at various venues throughout the city and also parallel events to Osheaga.

While the full schedule has yet to be unveiled, so far headliners include Agoria, Locomote, Van Did, G O'Brien, Duchess Says, Sexy Sushi, Cherry Cola, Magnanime, The Hacker and Bordello.

For more info:
www.megmontreal.com/



Divers/Cité



The Cure appear at Osheaga

Divers/Cité

While you don't have to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender to take part in Divers/Cité, the festival celebrates the LGBT crowd and the diversity of that culture in Montreal at this event.

For over 21 years this fun and fabulous festival has brought everything from parades to shows to mega-dance events to Montreal and 2013 will be no exception with a whole week of incredible festivities running July 30-August 5.

Featuring a parade, live music and dance parties in Montreal's Old Port, this year's lineup so far includes: Marie-Denise Pelletier, Fanny Bloom, Ana Paula, Peter Rauhofer, Kish/Delish, Mado, Hector Romero, David Morales, CHUS + Ceballos, The Young Professionals and Stephan Grondin.

For more info: www.diverscite.org

Terre en Vue/Land InSights / First Peoples' Festival

For those looking to celebrate Aboriginal culture in an urban setting, the First Peoples' Festival is a spectacular celebration of cinema, art and crafts, traditional foods, visual arts and all that is First Nations from across Canada and beyond.

The festival will take place once again within Montreal's ultra-modern and swanky Place des Festivals July 30-August

4, and will feature a wide variety of cultural shows and regalia as well as a series of installations developed specifically to showcase Indigenous artwork and design within such a modern context.

While most of the details for this event have yet to be confirmed, we were able to get a few tidbits out of the festival organizers. The films for the competition will be screened at both the Cinémathèque québécoise and Grande Bibliothèque this year for all of the Indigenous cinema buffs out there.

The downtown installation and festival site will be up from August 1-4 and will feature a plethora of activities that include the usual fare: outdoor film screenings, dance shows and concerts, confirmed so far are both CerAmory and the Digging Roots band.

For more info: www.nativelynx.qc.ca

The Montreal Fashion and Design Festival

Right in the dead heat of the summer, the city manages to turn up the sizzle factor a couple of degrees while serving as host to the Montreal Fashion and Design Festival in the downtown core.

All about glamour and putting your most fashionable foot forward, this four-day event, running July 31-August 3, sees a large strip of McGill College Avenue

transformed into an incredible outdoor runway.

Blending mediums, the event brings together the leading international fashion labels, a host of renowned national designers, spectacular and cutting-edge shows, design in real time, and countless special events, all set in a one-of-a-kind ambiance.

Founded in 2001, this celebration is all about being the first to enjoy what will become the next biggest trends in fashion, design, music and shopping.

For more info:
www.festivalmodedesign.com

August Osheaga

While California has Coachella and the UK has Reading, the Osheaga festival has become Montreal's signature musical event of the summer, complete with mind-blowing acts that draw in hipsters, tourists and music fans from around the world.

Running August 2-4 at Parc Jean Drapeau, this year's headliners include Mumford & Sons, the Cure, Phoenix, New Order, Vampire Weekend and the Lumineers.

Also playing on the two main stages are: Alt-J, Ellie Goulding, Pretty Lights, Imagine Dragons, Two Door Cinema Club, Porter Robinson, Silversun Pickups, Azealia Banks, Baauer, Tommy Trash, Jimmy Eat World, Misteur Valaire, Disclosure, Yelawolf, Lou Doillon, Gramatik, Frightened Rabbit, We Are Wolves, Angel Haze, Death Grips, Grouplove, Xavier Cafeine, Jesse Ware, The Heavy, Holy Ghost!, Icona Pop, Jake Bugg, Wild Nothing, Style Of Eye, The Head and The Heart, Jets, Frank Turner, The Neighborhood, DIIV, Atlas Genius, The Knocks, Rone, Floating Points, Oberhofer, Carnage, Wild Belle, Jackmaster, Amtrac, Shovels and Rope, Capital Cities, EC Twins, Kidnap Kid, Hyphen Hyphen, MNDR, Loud Larry Ajust Dusted, Guards, Ponctuation, Lucy Rose, Nightbox, Doezenne and Humans.

For more info: www.osheaga.com

Roger's Cup

If you are more of a sports fan than a music buff, men's tennis is back at Montreal's Uniprix Stadium, located in Jarry Park, August 2-4.

Come and see the world's biggest names in tennis battling it for the cup and bragging rights in one of the most exciting tournaments of the season.

If you don't want to pay the big bucks to sit courtside for one of the major events, patrons are welcomed to pay a nominal fee to wander about the practice courts and watch matches with the greats, who are so close you can actually smell their sweat.

For more info: www.rogerscup.com

The Montreal Highland Games

If you have Scottish roots or just like to pretend, why not take in the major Montreal event that celebrates both highland traditions and the city's Celtic community at the Montreal Highland Games?

This year the games will be hosted for the first time in Agrignon Park, the largest venue ever for this festival and the first ever that is located almost right on a métro stop.

Featuring a wide variety of Celtic music and pipes, traditional fare and various competitions such as highland dancing, caber tossing, sheaf toss, putting the stone and the hammer toss, this is a great family event.

Now in its 36th year, the highland games happen August 3-4 and are a guaranteed hit.

For more info:
www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca

FestiBlues International de Montréal

If you've ever wanted to attend a festival that's all about celebrating the blues and the music that has derived from it, Montreal's International Blues Festival, Festiblues, is all about that.

Running August 8-11 in Montreal's Ahuntsic district, this small yet powerful event has brought blues greats from around the world to play on its main outdoor stages or in the many smaller and

intimate venues that this festival is all about.

This year's lineup has yet to be released, so keep tabs on its website.

For more info: www.festiblues.com

Heavy MTL

Heavy MTL is all about devoting two solid days to heavy rock/ metal/ hard-core/ punk fans so they can rock out and come home with a sore neck from all of the head banging.

Running August 10-11, this year's headliners include Avenged Sevenfold, Rob Zombie, Megadeth, Godsmack, Danzig featuring Doyle, A Day to Remember, Children of Bodom, Mastodon, August Burns Red, At the Gates, Amon Amarth, Machine Head, Steel Panther, Gwar, Of Mice & Men, Finntroll, Baroness, Wintersun, Obey the Brave, The Acacia Strain, Halestorm, All Shall Perish, Cryptopsy, Augury, Unexpect, Oceano, Within the Ruins, Structures, Blackguard, Slaves On Dope and Havok.

For more info: www.heavymtl.com



Megadeth

Matsuri Japan

Created to raise awareness of Japanese culture in Montreal, the 12th annual Matsuri Japan or Japanese festival (matsuri means festival in Japanese) will be rolling out on August 10 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre of Montreal.

Featuring a jam-packed day of traditional dance, martial arts, cultural presentations, fashion displays and traditional Japanese foods, this bright and colourful festival is a fabulous way to expand your horizons without even leaving Montreal.

For more info: festivaljapon.com



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Otakuthon

While this may be one of Montreal's newer events, Otakuthon, the anime convention, returns to Palais de Congrès for two fun-filled days that are 100% devoted to the love of Chinese/Japanese animation and the culture surrounds with it.

While definitely not for everyone, this convention sees anime/Manga fans often dressed up as their favourite characters and participating in all sorts of events, from karaoke to dance, fan fiction contests, masquerades, costume contests and gaming.



Otakuthon, the anime convention

An ideal event for anyone who is into anime/Manga or wants to buy new books and films or get further immersed in the culture. It runs August 16-18 but requires registration.

For more info:
www.otakuthon.com/2013

Montreal International Reggae Festival

If you're a big fan of reggae music and its culture, there is no better way to get your reggae on than at Montreal's major event that's devoted to the best in reggae.

While the lineup has yet to be released, this fest features three days of reggae grooves and beats under the hot summer sun, right by the water in Montreal's Old Port.

For more info:
montrealinternationalreggaefestival.com

Montreal World Film Festival

If ever you've wanted the opportunity to feel like you're part of the film industry, get first-hand peeks at live celebrities on

a red carpet, with the fanfare that surrounds a film premiere, then the Montreal World Film Festival is your chance to be part of that.

Running August 22-September 2, this event has had its fair share of major Hollywood film premieres and is a world famous film competition.

For more info:
www.ffm-montreal.org

Pointe-à-Callière's 18th Century Public Market

If you've ever wanted to see what Montreal was like back in the days of New France, look no further than Pointe-à-Callière's 18th Century Public Market, an event that takes visitors right back to 1750.

Located in the exact spot that saw Montreal's first public market, the anthropology museum sets up a company of farmers, craftspeople and entertainers as they existed in 1750 to provide visitors with an authentic experience.

A tremendous learning experience for the entire family, this event runs August 24-25.

For more info:
pacmusee.qc.ca/en/calendar-of-activities/cultural-activities/18th-century-public-market

Art Tattoo Montreal

If you are thinking about getting some new ink or just want to look at some of the best body art there is out there, then

there's no better event in the province than Art Tattoo Montreal, coming to Windsor Station September 6-8.

Once more, at this ink-savvy event you can book to get yourself an incredible new tattoo by some of the best artists in the world as they partake in this event.

So, whether you are looking for new inspiration or just want to look at something incredible, this show is worthwhile to check out. It's only here for three days so plan your stay and art carefully.

For more info:
www.arttattoomontreal.com

Montreal's Comiccon 2013

Bust out your tights and capes as Montreal's Comiccon is back September 13-15 at the Palais de Congrès for more fun and excitement.

Whether you love comic books or just dressing up like a comic-book character, this is the ultimate event to get your comic-on.

This year's event will feature a bevy of stars of film and science fiction, including the cast of Syfy's *Battlestar Galactica* (Jamie Bamber, Edward James Olmos, Katee Sackhoff, Tricia Helfer and James Callis), Lena Headey from *Game of Thrones* and TV's original Hulk, Lou Ferrigno. So you'll be able to get lots of autographs and say hello in person.

For more info:
www.montrealcomiccon.com



Comiccon 2013

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NORD-DU-QUEBEC



Whether you are interested in finding new and stimulating work in Northern Quebec or you are looking to improve your skillset in order to improve your job opportunities in the labour market,

**we invite you to attend our
Employment Training Day on Wednesday, May 29th.**

Over forty exhibitors will be on site!

Our Employment Training Day will feature employers with job openings, economic organizations, and educational institutions from the region representing their programs and services.

List of exhibitors

- Barrette Chapais ltée
- Caisse Desjardins de Chibougamau
- Centre de recrutement des Forces canadiennes
- Centre de services partagés du Québec
- Chantiers Chibougamau ltée
- Commission de la construction du Québec
- Commission scolaire de la Baie-James
- Cree Human Resources Development
- CRSSS de la Baie-James
- Genivar
- GOLDCORP Éléonore project
- Hôtel Chibougamau
- Les Entreprises Alain Maltais inc.
- Métaux Black rock
- Nyrstar
- Placement étudiant
- Produits Forestiers Résolu
- Stornoway
- Swallow-Fournier
- Xstrata Zinc, Mine Matagami
- Emploi-Québec
- Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi de la Jamésie
- Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau et Services aux entreprises et aux collectivités
- Centre de formation générale des adultes de la Baie-James
- Centre de formation professionnelle de la Baie-James
- Centre régional RAC Nord-du-Québec
- Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- SADC Chibougamau-Chapais
- Metanor Resources Inc.
- Comité de développement social de la Baie-James

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from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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Some of the best other fests!

While Montreal may be the “hostess with the mostess”, when it comes to non-stop festival madness that doesn’t mean there aren’t other worthwhile events scattered throughout the province.

It’s quite the contrary, as Montreal’s reputation for international events is renowned, when other Quebec towns plan an event, it is with this in mind. The end result is a province that knows how to put on a party, no matter what the event and no matter where it is set.

Festival des guitares du monde en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

If you happen to be in the Rouyn Noranda region May 25-June 1, this unique event is all about celebrating one of the most essential and versatile musical instruments around – the guitar.

Featuring acts from all over the world, this will be the ninth edition of this event in Rouyn and this year’s festival has invited some of the world’s top guitarists and string instrumentalists like Côte d’Ivoire’s Aboulaye Koné, blues hero Colin James and Montreal Celtic folk great David Gossage.

For more info: www.fgmat.com

Festival International de Danse Encore

This Trois-Rivières festival is about showcasing dance in all of its forms from some of the world’s most incredible international performers.

Running June 6-9, the festival offers something for everyone, with youth showcases and competitions, free outdoor activities, gala and contemporary shows, master classes and mega hip-hop dance parties for those looking to shake their moneymakers to some sweet and styling tunes.

A world-class event for locals and tourists alike, this event usually attracts 25,000 participants from the general public, school groups, dance students and international visitors.

For more info: www.dansencore.ca

Fête de la pêche

While all Crees know that there is probably no greater fishing experience in Quebec than within some of Eeyou Istchee’s waterways, sometimes it’s fun to try out something new.

Running June 7-9, this special event is organized by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune and permits anyone throughout the province to fish anywhere they would like without

a permit in order to promote fishing in Quebec.

So, why not pack up the family for a fishing adventure somewhere you’ve never been? The province is your oyster for this special event.

For more info:

www.fetedelapeche.gouv.qc.ca

Festival des Fromages Fins de Victoriaville

While music and dance at a festival may be a major draw for some, in certain crowds there is nothing better to celebrate than fine cheeses and Victoriaville, known for its excellent milk quality, is a favourite amongst foodies from far and wide.

Running June 13-16, this fine cheese festival is about sampling the goods, making new discoveries and enjoying chef challenges. The event offers workshops with chefs and local celebrities as well as advice from tasting and flavour-pairing experts. There are workshops about cheese making, plus a special cheese-sculpting contest.

A celebration of fine cheeses and locally produced products, this fine-food event offers attendees a lot of flavour.

For more info:

www.festivaldesfromages.qc.ca

Saint-Honoré dans l’Vent Kite Festival

June 14-16 sees the return of a fabulous family favourite of a festival as a myriad of colour returns to the sky with the Saint-Honoré dans l’Vent Kite Festival.

A breathtaking feast for the eyes, this celebration of kite flying as well as the artistic beauty of kites attracts professional kite flyers from around the world.

With aviation-related activities, instruction on kiting for the young and old, on-site entertainment, evening shows, and a variety of local artists and exhibitors as well as wine tastings, this festival has it all for the very tall and the very small.

For more info: www.danslvent.com



A fish tale



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OUR SUBSIDIARIES



Symposium international de peinture et sculpture du Saguenay Lac-St-Jean

If fine arts is your flavour and sculpture your thing, this international symposium on painting and sculpture in the Saguenay Lac-St-Jean region is just the thing for you.

Running June 19-23, this event will bring out 35 regional, provincial, national and international artists this year to showcase their work and also share knowledge with the patrons of the event.

Now in its 9th edition, this event serves as a wonderful fine-arts learning opportunity in the Saguenay region.

For more info:
www.symposiumsaguenay.com

The James Bay Walleye Fishing Tournament

A favourite among Crees and an excellent way to kick off the summer, the James Bay Walleye Fishing Tournament runs June 20-29.

Whether you are intent on walleye fishing or telling tales of large fish once caught, there is no better time to get into a fishing boat with your family and show those from the outside who have come for the event, how it's really done?

The festival will be based in Chapais, while the tournament will be held on Opemisca Lake. Multiple categories are for professionals, amateurs, youth, women and "old timers".

This year's entertainment includes AC/DC tribute band 21 Gun Salute (June 21), La Comtesse d'Harmonia (June 24) and Jean Marie Corbeil (June 27).

For more info:
www.festivaldudore.com

Festival de la Truite mouchetée

If you really want to hit Quebec's largest fishing tournament, Saint-Alexis-des-Monts in the Mauricie region, an area known for its brook trout, is the place to be June 22-July 1.

With nightly live entertainment, family activities to keep the whole family in good spirits and a whole lotta trout on

the menu, this makes for an excellent fishing vacation for everyone to enjoy.

There are over 60 different prizes to be won, totaling \$40,380, and a Polaris ATV valued at \$16,500.

For more info:
www.festivaldelatruitemouchetee.com

L'Estival Rotary Desjardins in Amos

June 27-29 sees the return of a summer favourite in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue



Festival forestier de Senneterre

region, L'Estival Rotary Desjardins. This summer carnival will feature a wide variety of activities, festivities and family fun.

With shows by popular Quebec entertainers, bingo for the adults and kiddies, a midway, an opening parade and loads of other surprises to discover on site, this country fair is a party and a half.

For more info:
www.estivalrotary.com

Le FestiVoix de Trois-Rivières

Featuring homegrown Québécois talent as well as acts from the rest of Canada, the U.S. and beyond, the FestiVoix music festival in Trois-Rivières brings a wide array of acts that are normally only seen in major cities.

Running June 27-July 7, this mega concert event features an eclectic variety of performances in all sorts of musical styles such as jazz, pop, opera, rock and choral performances, all in celebration of the voice.

This year's program includes Diane Dufrense, Robert Charlebois, Éric Lapointe, Les Colocs, Jael Birdjoseph, Lisa Leblanc, Les Trois Accords, Coeur de Pirate, Random Recipe, Loco Locass, Jason Bonham's Led Zepplin Experience, Richard Desjardins, Les Soeurs Boulay, Bears of Legend and Jorane.

For more info: www.festivoix.com

Festival forestier de Senneterre

For the little lumberjack in all of us, there is always the Festival forestier de Senneterre running June 28-30.

Attracting amateur and professional woodcutters from around the world, this family favourite of a fest is now in its 19th edition and has never been bigger or better.

Featuring a wide variety of wood categories for those new to lumberjacking, seasoned pros and even masters, these competitions have been known to draw large crowds due to their intensity.

With lots of children's activities (like bouncy castles and other inflatable games), two nighttime concerts featuring Jonathan Painchaud and Vincent Vallières, and a host of other activities for everyone in the family, this event is one of the biggest highlights to Senneterre's summer scene.

For more info:
www.festivalforestier.ca

Festival d'humour de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

If you are looking to get your laugh on in Val-d'Or and are a fan of francophone comedy, look no further than l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue's comedy festival, running July 2-7.

Featuring a wide variety of comedians, entertainers and improv troupes, this homegrown festival brings thousands to the region annually.

For more info:
www.festivaldhumour.com

Hairspray

If Broadway-style musicals are your thing and you want to catch a night of entertainment in Val-d'Or, be sure to see Hairspray July 4-27.



There will be a professional rodeo in the Outouais region this summer.

Follow this 1960s inspired story of Tracy Turnblad, a cheerfully overweight teenager who strives to make it on a popular TV dance show. This musical features hours of song, dance and hilarity that audiences around the world have enjoyed.

For more info:
www.latroupeacoeuouvert.com

Mondial des Cultures de Drummondville

Featuring 15 international folkloric dance ensembles in a jaw-dropping array of colour, movement and sound, Drummondville's cultural festival brings performers in from all over the world for this special event that shouldn't to be missed.

Running July 4-14, this event is a mix of original shows and traditional dance ensembles meeting folklore as well as new technologies to give these presentations a new life.

This is one of the five largest folklore festivals in the world and it attracts over 300,000 attendees annually.

For more info:
www.mondialdescultures.com

Tremblant International Blues Festival

If you're looking for a solid blues festival that takes place in the middle of a town with a reputation for partying and vacationing, look no further than Mont Tremblant's international blues festival. This is a major music event that will rock your sock off.

Featuring over 150 free shows and lots of major surprises and special events to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary, this year's program will be revealed later this spring but expect some big names and some jaw-dropping special events.

For more info:
www.tremblantblues.com

H2O le Festival Coop IGA Extra Amos

Running July 10-14, this fantastic family extravaganza is all about celebrating the region's natural elements, with a special emphasis on water sports and culture. This event features all sorts of goodies to keep the whole family active.

With dragon boats, swimming contests, lots of children's activities and nightly entertainment, this festival has much to offer day and night.

For more info:
www.h2olefestival.com

Festival Western de St-André-Avellin Rodéo Professionnel

If you've ever wanted to take in a professional rodeo in the Outouais region look no further than the Festival Western St-André-Avellin Rodéo Professionnel July 19-28.

Featuring a wide assortment of cattle wrangling and authentic rodeo activities, this family event puts on a variety of

country-style shows to please your inner cowboy.

For more info:
www.rodeostandreavellin.org

Festival du DocuMenteur de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Held in Rouyn Noranda July 23-27, this fun festival is all done in good humour as it celebrates local and international mock-umentaries on large outdoor screens.

During this festival, a series of teams are challenged to make their own mock-umentaries during a 72-hour period and then the results are screened, much to the delight of patrons and participants.

For more info:
www.documenteur.com

Festival de la Truite de Saint-Philémon

If you haven't had your fill of competitive fishing this summer, Saint-Philémon in the Chaudière-Appalaches region hosts its own trout fishing event July 25-28.

Featuring fishing on Rivière du Pin, family activities and a demolition derby, this fishing event has a lot to offer.

For more info:
www.festivaldelatruite.ca

August Festival

Chibougamau's biggest event of the year, the mid-summer festival will see 75 artists from the region perform. There's also a family day, pyro-musical display, a beach volleyball tournament and a triathlon. The event runs August 1-4.

For more info:
www.ville.chibougamau.qc.ca

The Truck Rodeo

This major tourist event in Abitibi-Témiscamingue's Notre-Dame-du-Nord grows every year, attracting well over 100,000 people to the region for this unique event.

Running August 1-4, this event is like a regular rodeo but instead of animals they use trucks. But it does bring out the animal in the truck.

The rodeo features truck-pull competitions, show-and-shine contests for

trucks, a parade, fireworks displays, a flea market, exhibitions, lots of children's activities and nightly country shows.

There is also their famous draw for the big bucks! Last year's draw was for over \$285,000. As the amount increases annually, expect this year's to be even bigger. With only 4000 tickets available, be sure to get yours early.

For more info: www.elrodeo.com

Exposition de voitures sport et antiques

If you're a fan of sports cars and antique vehicles, why not take in La Tuque's car show, running August 3-4?



Abitibi-Témiscamingue's Notre-Dame-du-Nord has a truck rodeo in August

This unique northern car show features over 250 to 300 exhibitors from every region of Quebec and beyond.

For more info: www.cvsalt.net

Festival Western de Guigues

If you haven't worn your Stetson and spurs yet this summer, break 'em out for the Festival Western de Guigues August 6-11.

A traditional rodeo with all of the usual trappings and livestock competitions, this event includes lots of fun activities for the young and old. There's a line dancing evening and lessons for beginners, bingo, heavy-horse pulling, a folk night, several country music performanc-

es, gymkhana, and kiosks for those who like to shop.

Located in Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues, this wholesome family festival is all about recreating the spirit of the Old West while celebrating the fruits of today's agriculture.

For more info: www.festivalwestern-deguigues.com/fr/index.cfm

Festival Musique du Bout du Monde

Located in the Gaspé, this world-music festival brings musicians from around the globe to perform some special shows in one of Quebec's most picturesque settings.

Running August 8-11, patrons of this event are treated one show after another under a Big Top, a club series of live entertainment and street performances with an international vibe.

For more info:
www.musiqueduboutdumonde.com

Pyromusical Festival - Osisko en lumière

Nothing lights up the northern skies of Rouyn Noranda like Osisko en lumière, the Pyromusical Festival in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, much to the delight of those who attend the event.

Running August 9-11, this year's event will feature six major concerts along with the three incredible fireworks

AVIS PUBLIC

Le Comité d'examen (COMEX) tiendra des consultations publiques sur le projet minier BlackRock qui vise l'exploitation d'un gisement pour la production d'un concentré de minerai de fer-vanadium. Le projet, présenté par la compagnie Métaux BlackRock inc., est localisé dans le complexe géologique du Lac Doré, à environ 30 km au sud-est de Chibougamau.

Les rencontres se tiendront le :

Mardi, 11 juin 2013 à Oujé-Bougoumou

à la salle du Conseil de bande, située au 207 Opemiska Meskino, à compter de 19 h.
La traduction simultanée (cri-anglais-français) sera disponible sur place.

Mercredi, 12 juin 2013 à Chibougamau

au Club de golf de Chibougamau, située au 130 rue des Forces Armées, à compter de 19 h.

Afin de mieux planifier le déroulement des séances, nous aimerions être avisés à l'avance de votre intention de présenter oralement vos commentaires sur le projet, au 418 521-3933, poste 4674, ou par courrier électronique à secretariat.comex@mddefp.gouv.qc.ca.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Review Committee (COMEX) will be holding public consultations on BlackRock Metals Inc.'s project to mine a deposit for the production of an iron-vanadium concentrate. The BlackRock mining project is located in the Lac Doré geological complex approximately 30 km southeast of Chibougamau.

Sessions will be held on:

Tuesday, June 11, 2013 in Oujé-Bougoumou

in the Band Council chambers, 207 Opemiska Meskino, at 7 p.m.
Simultaneous translation (Cree-English-French) will be available.

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 in Chibougamau

at the Chibougamau Golf Club, 130 rue des Forces Armées, at 7 p.m.

To help us plan the sessions, please let us know beforehand if you intend to make an oral submission on the project by calling 418-521-3933 #4674, or by sending an email to secretariat.comex@mddefp.gouv.qc.ca



Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois
James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement
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Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

shows set to music. The shows will include: Aldo Nova, Nanette Workman, Saga, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Sylvain Cossette and MerQury, a Queen tribute band.

During the day, there are lots of children's activities with inflatable games, face painting and games.

For more info:
www.osiskoenlumiere.com/index.html

International Hot Air Balloon Festival of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

A sight like no other in the province, August 10-18 sees the return of hundreds of hot air balloons in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, including Looney Toon's Sylvester and Tweety, a fire hydrant, a Spider Pig (Spiderman print-shaped pig), clowns, elephants and Elvis Presley.

While the musical lineup for this event has yet to be unveiled, to date Taio Cruz is the only confirmed act for August 10, but more big names will be added to that bill.

For more info:
www.ballooncanada.com/

Foire gourmande de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-Est ontarien

Certainly the tastiest festival in the north, the Foire gourmande de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-Est ontarien is a delectable favourite amongst its many patrons.

Located in Ville-Marie and happening August 16-18, this festival celebrates the regional harvest and everything edible from the area. It's a great place to learn new cooking techniques and get ideas on how to prepare the fare grown in the area.

Featuring over 250 products to sample, cooking demos and local chefs, this event also offers free entertainment and a series of children's activities.

For more info:
www.foiregourmande.ca/en

Festival de musique émergente de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

An event about new music and new ideas in music, this is a festival to showcase emerging bands and take in shows by other up-and-comers.

Running August 29-September 1, this festival features about 50 artists and groups from Quebec, Canada, the U.S. and Europe. You'll hear rock, metal, hip-hop and many other genres as you discover new sounds and trends.

For more info: www.fmeat.org

Festival Western de St-Tite

Call it saving the best for last but St-Tite's Western Festival always manages to pack a big punch when it comes to delivering country-western fun and entertainment.

Running September 6-16, this huge hootenanny attracts hundreds of thousands of patrons every year to enjoy the daily rodeo shows and the nightly country-music performances. There is also line dancing, a western market for leathers and loads of other country-western related products.

For those of you with RVs, drive your own accommodations to this event as space is rented out to patrons for this festival.

For more info: www.festivalwestern.com

Ongoing Attractions

Whether you're in the north or in the south, there are a number of events that run throughout the summer months or are permanent fixtures within the provincial landscape, which make them ideal spots for a day or evening of fun.

Here are a few of the Nation's favourites.

Piknic Electronik

Held every weekend throughout the summer in Parc Jean Drapeau, Piknic Electronik is a rare gem of a party. It's all about bringing a picnic and dancing to some of the world's best DJs under the hot summer sun.

It's the only place in Montreal where you can see clubbers relaxing, while a 60-year-old dances comfortably next to a six-year-old. While trendy and cool, this is an event that families go to with their kids.

For more info:
piknicelectronik.com/en/program

La Ronde

La Ronde, Montreal's top amusement park, was reborn after being taken over by U.S. amusement park giant, Six Flags, several years ago and it only keeps getting better.

With over 40 rides and attractions designed to thrill, chill or just plain out delight all types of visitors from toddlers to teens to older generations, La Ronde theme park is clearly one of the most complete family entertainment activities in the province.

With everything from roller coasters to bumper cars to water activities to live entertainment, this park has it all.

For more info: www.laronde.com

Aquarium du Québec

If learning about marine life is your goal and you are in the Quebec City region, the city's Aquarium offers a world-class aquarium experience for kids and adults alike.

With all sorts of learning activities geared towards children and breathtaking aquatic exhibits, this unique attraction is the province's largest aquarium.

For more info:
www.sepaq.com/ct/paq

Parc Safari

If a real African safari is out of your reach, a drive through Parc Safari offers a fabulous daytrip experience for the entire family with all sorts of animals, exhibits and water-park attractions to cool off afterwards.



Piknic Electronik

With over 600 animals from five different continents, Parc Safari is an ideal one-day getaway for the family to learn about animals, play together and be entertained.

For more info: www.parc safari.com

Granby Zoo

If a real, authentic indoor/outdoor zoo is what you and your family crave, meander through Granby Zoo and enjoy many wild creatures the park offers, up-close.

Tour different “Zoo Zones” – Africa, America, Asia, Oceania – and “the village” for hours of learning and wonder. Then cap the experience off with a visit to the zoo’s Yoplait Amazoo Water Park to cool off.

For more info:
www.zoodegranby.com

Village du Père-Noël

Even though Christmas was months ago, the jolly fat elf remains on the minds of many kids throughout the year, making a trip to Santa Claus’ Village the perfect thing for your young children.

After visiting with Santa, his wife and elves, kids can spend the day of climbing,

running, jumping in a bouncy house, driving mini cars on the track and exploring a Christmas-theme park made entirely for children.

For more info: www.noel.qc.ca

La Cité de l'Or

As mining development in the north is forever expanding, offering some of the most viable new careers to Crees in the region, there has never been a better time to teach the whole family what it is all about. This is why, if you happen to be in the Val-d’Or area, a trip to La Cité de l’Or might be a great idea.

The only place in Quebec where you can take a tour 91 metres underground to explore what was once one of the most productive goldmines in the province, visitors can see the mine, equipment and grounds, visit the mining village, and enjoy some live entertainment.

For more info: www.citedelor.com

Refuge Pageau

For those who would like to take their children to see what happens when some of nature’s most vulnerable crea-

tures get rescued, the Refuge Pageau is a wonderful spot for kids to learn about the province’s wildlife.

For decades now the Pageau Wildlife Refuge has taken in injured or orphaned animals for rehabilitation before being returned to their natural habitats.

Visitors can take a tour of the picturesque refuge to see these animals as they recover and visit with the other moose, bears, wolves, deer, raccoons, birds of prey and other small orphans that have made this spot their permanent home. This site also features a mini-farm where kids can learn about agriculture.

For more info:
www.refugepageau.ca/index.php

Acrobranche

For those looking for a day of adrenaline and excitement through climbing, zip-lining and running through expertly made obstacle courses both on the ground and up in the air, Acrobranche is the perfect spot for you.

Located in the Mont Tremblant region, this adventure park features zip lines, ropes to swing on and a series of obstacles to get over, through and under in a unique setting: up in the trees.



Parc Safari

With different activities geared for both children and adults, this not-for-the-faint-of-heart adventure park is guaranteed to thrill and chill.

For more info: www.acrobranche.com

Water Parks

If you are looking for a full day of fun that's geared to beating the heat, Quebec boasts three spectacular water parks that offer action and excitement for those who want to ride the slides and quieter beach fun for those looking to relax.

Located in the Laurentians, Super Aqua Club in Pointe-Calument is the province's largest water park and is all about water slides, rides and fun.

For more info:
www.superaquaclub.com

Mont Saint-Sauveur also offers its own water park in a glorious mountain setting. Ideal for a day with the kids or a fun outing with friends, this winter ski park converts perfectly into a cool summer attraction come hot weather.

For more info: www.parcaquatique.com/

If you happen to be in the Valcartier region with the family and want to cool off, why not check out Valcartier's Vacation Village? Featuring a series of slides, rafting slides through decorated indoor and outdoor courses, pirate ships with swinging ropes and cannons that fire water and a children's water park, this family park is both very hot and very cool for everybody.

For more info: www.valcartier.com

Jet Boating

If you're in Montreal and are looking for something exciting to do and you don't mind getting a little wet, why not go for a jet boat tour? Just head down to the Old Port of Montreal.

The "saute moutons" are a Montreal favourite, featuring jet boat and speedboat rides, these specially designed boats are the perfect way to get the adrenaline pumping while cooling off in the spray of the water. With heat waves expected in the south, this is one of the most fun activities you can find in the city.

For more info: www.jetboatingmontreal.com/

And that concludes the Nation's tourism guide for 2013. On behalf of the Nation, enjoy your summer as it will be over before you know it.

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Looking back in order to move forward

Romeo Saganash discusses residential school's impact on his life and family

by Jesse Staniforth

NDP MP Romeo Saganash's personal struggles and emotions have been very public in recent months. After being removed from a flight in October for drunkenness, he immediately came clean about his alcoholism and the emotions that underpinned it – the stress of working Parliament Hill and participating in the NDP leadership race, the loss of his good friend Jack Layton, and the unhealed scars from his youth in residential schools.

In attempt to illustrate the emotional damage inflicted by the residential school experience, Saganash made a powerful statement (in French) to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on April 26, in which he both recounted his own experiences and called upon the government to change the way it deals with Aboriginal people.

"I give the impression of being a normal person," he said. "But no. I can never be normal. And not a single one of these children taken away to residential school can pretend to be normal today. It's impossible, impossible."

Calling the legacy of residential schools "the aspect of Canadian history the hardest to tell," Saganash grieved for "what was taken from these children of five, six, seven years old, who were for the most part born in the forest and who knew nothing other than life in the forest, life with their families; who, in their earliest years, were torn from their territory, torn from their culture, torn from their language, torn from their families to be placed in a context alien to them."

To this day, Saganash can still remember precise details of the residential school in La Tuque where he spent 10 years after being taken from his home in Waswanipi: "The darkness in the hall, the smell of the place, the voices and the sounds of the priests responsible for that residential school, at the top of the

stairs, in a language of which I understood nothing."

Saganash believes he and other First Nations children were victims of politics. "The effect of being an Indian, the effect of being Aboriginal, was that Canadian history sent me to residential school."

But the most difficult memory for Saganash to share concerned the death of his brother Johnish.

He broke down as he recalled the boy he called "my little brother – because I never knew him, for one thing, and for another he was sent away." Johnish Saganash was the first member

Saganash went on to criticize the apology made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2008 for the history of residential schools. Saying that the apology was nonetheless a "necessary step," Saganash condemned it as empty words that do not encourage legitimate reconciliation.

"For an apology to be sincere [and] valid," he said, "there must be concrete gestures to put the apology in motion, to show the meaning of the apology toward those to whom one is apologizing – toward all Aboriginal

"BUT NO. I CAN NEVER BE NORMAL. AND NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THESE CHILDREN TAKEN AWAY TO RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CAN PRETEND TO BE NORMAL TODAY. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE."

of the Saganash family taken to residential school (in Moose Factory) in 1954 when he was six; he died there within his first year.

Fighting tears, Saganash told the room that his family still does not know what happened to his brother. "We don't have a death certificate for Johnish and it took 40 years for my mother to find out where his small... where Johnish was buried," he said.

Years later, he and his sister, Emma Saganash of Radio-Canada, were able to locate the grave of their lost brother and filmed the event so that they could show their mother.

"I've often seen my mother cry," he said of her reaction to the video, "but I've never seen my mother cry like that. Never. And this story, as traumatizing as it is, isn't unique to my family."

people in Canada. Unfortunately, this is not what happened."

Saganash said he continues to see discrimination against Aboriginal people under law, and set out a series of recommendations to foster reconciliation. For Saganash, reconciliation begins with the demand that Canadian laws respect the rights of Indigenous Nations and communities and follow the standards laid out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). It's a cause he has pursued in his work as an MP by introducing a Private Members' Bill in January that would, if passed, ensure laws adopted by the Canadian parliament respect the constitution as well as UNDRIP's terms and provisions.

He doesn't understand why it's so difficult to check whether any law passed by Parliament contradicts Article 35 of

the Constitution. "It's essential," he insisted.

Along with the "duty to consult" Indigenous communities in development of natural resources, Saganash emphasized that developers also have an obligation to heed the recommendations they receive.

Finally, he praised the strength and dignity of the Nishiyuu walkers, who, upon reaching Ottawa after their 1,600-kilometre trek, met with Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt and asked nothing of him.

"This is a point of nobility," he underlined. "They proved their point. They had made, as we say in English, 'a statement' by making this journey. We should admire their courage."

During an interview after his presentation, Saganash shrugged off the suggestion that it must be difficult for him as a public figure to make such an emotional expression of truth, though he was visibly shaken following his statement.

"I think that whenever you speak with Romeo Saganash, you speak with the human being inside Romeo Saganash," he said. "It was an intimate conversation, a very personal conversation. What I said about doing it officially for once allows me to close that chapter personally. Now that it's said, I don't think I'll have a difficult time anymore telling that story. I've turned a page and this provided an opportunity for that."

Saganash praised the TRC process. "When people who are confronted with colonial practices and policies throughout their lives get together, one good feeling is that you're able to say, 'Hey, I'm not alone.' That's what's happening with the Commission hearings throughout the country, and especially at national events like this."

For Saganash, the role of an MP is one that demands that he express himself in action, and above all, he said, he is committed to pursuing the causes of Aboriginal justice. As likely the only sitting member of the House of Commons who is also a residential-school survivor, Saganash said it's his duty to speak out about his experience.

"This get-together of survivors with others, with Canadians, with their par-



Romeo Saganash at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

ents and friends, it's important," he said. "It's important to be able to say, 'I'm not alone,' and to say, 'If he can do it, I can do it as well.' It's a healing process that's fundamental for all of us."

But he insisted that words alone will not be enough. He said the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is well-suited to building reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people because it "is the international law instrument providing most for the rights of non-Indigenous people as well. So it strikes a balance between fundamental

rights of Indigenous peoples, and the rights of those who live within the states where there are Indigenous peoples."

Saganash says that he has received many letters from organizations ranging from the Assembly of First Nations to the Quebec Bar Association in support of his Private Members' Bill, which at press time had not yet been debated in the House of Commons.

"So I think we're on the right track in terms of reconciliation," he said. "That's what I want to show as a politician: that I don't just talk about these issues, I act on them."

Speaking difficult truth

Chisasibi's Ancita Bugden makes a moving statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

by Jesse Staniforth

The word “truth” is prominent in any discussion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), and not simply because the TRC hopes to reveal the dark truth of Indian residential schools. Instead, the word is often deliberately used in the place of the word “story.” When a person tells a story, there’s always the possibility that the whole thing is made up, or that parts of it are exaggerated.

But the historical silence over the cultural genocide and abuse that captive students suffered in the residential-school system is forcing those trying to reveal the truth to look more bluntly at the lasting impacts of the system on victims’ lives – and on the lives of their descendants. For that reason, statements to the TRC are often referred to as people “telling their truths.” The truth of these statements is precisely what makes them so moving and yet so difficult to hear.

This powerful emotion was close to the surface during a statement from Chisasibi's Ancita Bugden. The daughter of a survivor, she gave a wrenching and painful account of growing up being physically abused. Bugden's courage triggered a standing ovation, shouts of encouragement and loud cheers from those in attendance.

“I’ve seen all aspects of abuse,” Bugden said between pauses to choke back her tears. “Not only me, but also others that are like me. I’ve seen that, and I’ve [gone] through that feeling of not being loved.” She echoed the accounts of many survivors and children of survivors; that they grew up never being hugged by their parents or told their parents loved them. “We’re a very unloved generation,” she concluded.

Acknowledging that her mother never had the opportunity to learn how



Ancita Bugden making her statement to the commission

to be a parent, Bugden was nonetheless explicit about the physical abuse her mother inflicted on her. “I didn’t understand it when I was young, why I was physically abused, why I would be punished in that manner. I didn’t understand until I got older: it’s what she lived, it’s what she’s seen, that’s all she knew.”

Bugden also witnessed her grandfather physically abusing his children, which only exacerbated her fear of those who were supposed to love her. The effects of this abuse, she said, tore her family apart and left relatives alienated from one another.

Bugden's abuse and emotional neglect jumpstarted a cycle of addiction, both to drugs and to compulsive eating, that continued long after she became a mother at the age of 15. She charted an agonizing history of crimes, jail time and several suicide attempts.

Despite the self-destructive methods employed to soothe the pain of her upbringing, however, Bugden was even-handed in her appraisal of her mother's faults.

“I don’t blame my mother,” she said. “I try not to blame her, and I try not to blame anyone. I just want to understand where this behaviour came from.”

Bugden was less forgiving with those in Chisasibi and across the Cree Nation whom she sees as committed to the illusion of wellness even as they continue to suffer from the abuses committed in residential schools. Railing against what she called the trend of wanting to appear “well,” she said, “Anyone who is Native and lives in Canada, if you’re a survivor, a child of a survivor, a grandchild of a survivor, a great-grandchild of a survivor, you are affected. And our people need to start seeking healing.”

She went on to criticize social services as well as local and regional Aboriginal governments, which she said were full of residential-school survivors in denial about the extent to which their suffering had affected their lives and their decisions. Bugden said she was unable to get the help she needed for herself and her children from social services, which are

"not equipped with the resources needed to help our people get healing."

During an interview, Bugden said she was moved to speak by the pain of her experiences.

"I believe that I need to bring this truth out. I believe truth brings light to situations. When we hide the truth, we're stuck in the dark."

Asked to clarify her comments about social services in Eeyou Istchee, she connected federal and provincial government funding of Aboriginal social services to the residential-school system.

"They're the ones that funded [the residential-school system], found people to run it. Now social services is run by the government, even though it's part of the Cree Health Board. It's funded by the federal government and the provincial government. Most of these entities run by the governments aren't getting to the core of where the help is needed. They're just scratching the surface."

Bugden's experience of failing publicly as a relapsed addict makes her wary of the way that people in her community

look at one another. "I used to be one of those people who had a job. I had a vehicle, I had money, and I thought I needed that in order for society to look at me as a good person, a person who's well, who has control of her family, who has happiness and wealth and joy. But I fell, I fell really hard."

When she relapsed into drug use, turned to crime and was ultimately incarcerated, Bugden says she felt the community turn against her rather than supporting her and recognizing that her mistakes were the result of growing up unloved and abused.

Now three years clean and sober, Bugden wants to help others begin the healing process. That's why she is calling on the federal government to institute a fully funded initiative that would "not limit survivors or descendants from accessing ways 'to heal themselves, their families, their communities, and their nations.'"

During her truth statement, Bugden underlined her belief that the religious leaders who ran the residen-

tial schools were not representative of Christian faith.


"All these years, man has misrepresented God in so many ways," she said to loud applause. "God loves everyone and accepts them as they are. And the people who ran these schools were not in any way, shape, or form representing who my God is. God's kingdom is about justice, and freedom. It wasn't about what these nuns and these priests brought to our people. They were wrong."

Her statement, though it triggered a raucous standing ovation, was clearly difficult to deliver. But later, Bugden seemed truly relieved. Several hours later, she was still being approached by spectators who had been moved by her words and wanted to thank her.


"I believe by the word of my testimony that other people will be set free," she said about the attention. "I really hope to see other people stand up and release that. Releasing it in front of a crowd, it gives you even more strength. I felt a load just roll off my back after I was done."



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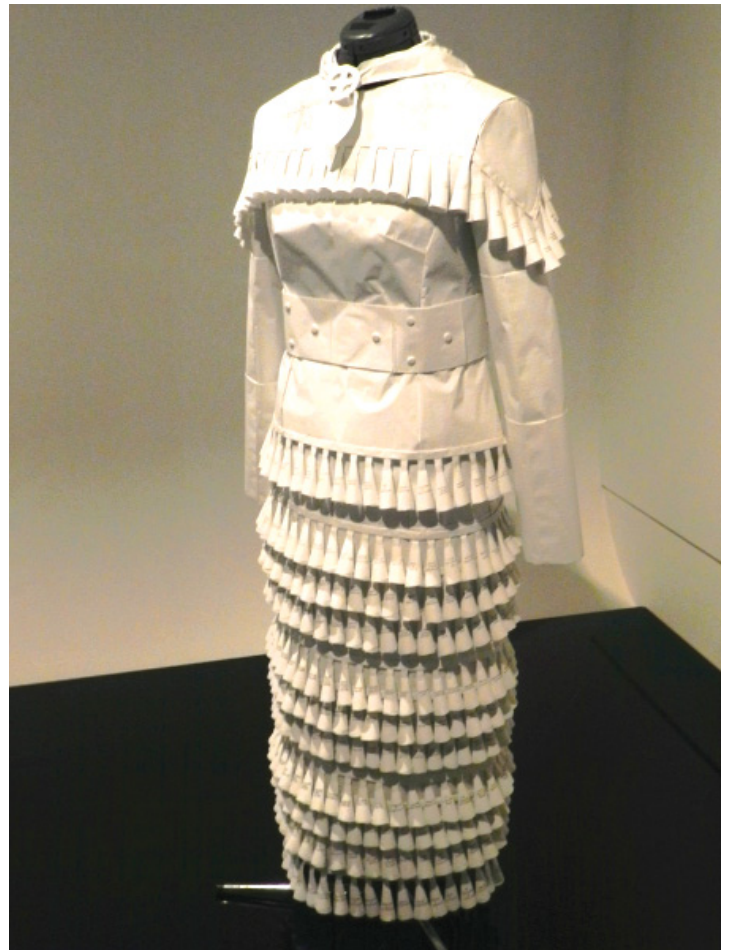
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Decoding native style

A unique Montreal exhibit threads the relationship of clothing to Aboriginal identity

Story and photos: Christine Rigby

Montreal's historic McCord Museum, which has long been devoted to the preservation of Native Peoples' history, opened a new permanent collection May 2 that explores the relationship between Native dress and identity.

Wearing Our Identities: The First Peoples Collection presents items from 40 different First Nations across Canada and the northern United States dating from the 19th century to present day.

With this endeavour, the McCord further solidifies an ongoing relationship with Canada's First Peoples.

Delving beyond the notion of clothing as protection, the exhibit explores four themes – social, political, cultural and spiritual. Each is carefully designed to explain how something as simple as clothing can teach us not only where a person is from, but can also share information about their civil status, their achievements and their relationship to nature.

Whether you are a fan of history, textiles, fashion, politics or art there is sure to be something to please you. Presented with various forms of multi-

media, the exhibition incorporates traditional items, such as a Dene hunter's outfit, a Kwakwaka'wakw button blanket and a silk Haudenosaunee dress, alongside video projections, photographs and contemporary art. This juxtaposition of contemporary media and traditional artifacts creates a truly unique and exciting viewer experience.

Highlighting the intricate methods of construction in Native dress, the exhibit also pays homage to the skill and creativity required to produce the pieces. The overall presentation, as well as the lighting, accentuates the fine detail of beadwork, stitching and symbolism of each item.

Maria Hupfiels' *Jingle Dress*, one of the two contemporary pieces on display, is no exception. Made entirely of paper, this work is decorated with hundreds of identical paper cones, or "bells". Each of the hand-rolled bells contains the name of a Native author and was designed to represent the voices of First Nations people of Canada.

As one might imagine, a dress made of paper is extremely delicate, as are the

other artifacts on display. As a result only some of the 100 artifacts collected can be displayed at a time. In order to properly preserve each garment, close to 85% of the contents will be renewed annually. Similarly, the collection will feature two different contemporary artists each year as well, making the show something worth visiting more than once.

A truly beautiful and educational experience, this exhibit is complemented by a series of films and lectures. One film explores the deeply personal experiences of (now-adult) Inuit children forced to attend residential schools, while another investigates the origins of Inuit tattoos and their spiritual significance (June 1). Finally, Guislaine Lemay, curator of Ethnology and Archeology at the McCord Museum, lectures on the rich traditions of Native dress and how style and technique varies from Nation to Nation.

This not-to-be-missed exhibition is open to the public daily (closed Mondays) at the McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal.



The Mistassini Hostels have been added to Schedule F of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (“IRSS Agreement”) for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978.

To all who resided at the Mistassini Hostels in Northern Quebec between September 1, 1971 and June 30, 1978

BE ADVISED that the Mistassini Hostels have been added to the list of “Indian Residential Schools” under the IRSS Agreement for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978. Justice Rolland of the Superior Court of Justice has ordered that former residents of the Mistassini Hostels who resided there during the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978 are eligible to apply for compensation in the form of a Common Experience Payment (CEP). As well, those former residents who suffered sexual and/or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects while at these hostels, may apply for additional compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP).

All **CEP** applications relating to the Mistassini Hostels must be filed **on or before September 2, 2013**. All **IAP** applications

relating to the Mistassini Hostels filed **on or before September 2, 2013** will be considered to have been received by September 19, 2012.

This Notice extends only to applications relating to residence at the Mistassini Hostels. ***It does not alter the existing deadlines under the IRSS Agreement in place for other eligible Indian Residential Schools.***

For more information on both processes, please call toll free, 1.866.879.4913, or go to www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca to read the Settlement Agreement and other Court approved notices, or write to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber Street North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9. The IRS Crisis Line (1.866.925.4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

For more information call 1.866.879.4913 or visit www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Everything will work out in the end

by Xavier Kataquapit

I have been watching some good movies lately. One titled “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” was about a group of older English retirees who move to Jaipur, a city in India, to live in a hotel converted into a senior citizen's home. A line from that movie – “Things will work out in the end. If they do not, then it is not the end.” – made me realize how important it is never to give up.

I recall as a teenager many times I felt like just ending it all. At some dark points in my life, it seemed like I was living in complete dysfunction and nothing was working out. At times it felt like I was neither alive nor dead. I was confused and numb. I couldn't really feel things anymore. It wasn't so bad when I was a child but when I became a teenager and started drinking, everything took a turn for the worse.

I consider myself one of the fortunate ones. I survived this terrible period and managed to find a way out by getting a handle on my alcoholism so that I could become a recovering alcoholic and lead a clean and sober life.

I say that I am fortunate because I could have become one of the many First Nation young people to have committed suicide. Suicide is almost an epidemic in most Native communities and much of it has to do with alcoholism and drug addictions. Of course, poor living conditions, racism, bigotry and a hopelessness is fertile ground where alcohol and drug addiction grows. I have heard too many times, the sad news of friends who have ended their lives and in most cases they have done so under the influence of alcohol or drugs. I recall being in situations where I was drunk and out of my mind and thoughts of suicide was an option. Thankfully, for whatever reason, I made it through these sad times.

Too many young people in First Nations right across this country are feeling like failures and in many cases are made to feel less than perfect because of pressures from society and the fact that racism is still alive and thriving in a lot of non-Native communities where many of these young people go to school. Life is confusing for First Nation youth because on one hand they are still living life as brown-skinned Aboriginal people while also trying to fit into a modern and mostly white powered world. These youth are listening to the latest pop music, dressing in the new trendy styles and following the fashion and music icons of the day. Part of this reality includes alcohol and drug use.

I can recall that I could justify my alcoholism and drug addiction for so many reasons. The addictions were a cool way to fit into the trendy world of what all the famous figures were doing in public life. Alcohol and drugs were a way to become cool. When I found that I could not be as cool as what the magazines and movies portrayed, then I used alcohol and drugs as a way to escape my reality.

Today, right across Canada, many First Nations are sitting on top of treasures, as mining, forestry and hydro companies are interested in resource development on traditional Native lands. We are at the point where our First Nation leadership can be negotiating good agreements with government and resource development companies that benefit our Native communities. If we can provide a percentage of this wealth from these developments to go towards our First Nation communities then we would not have to be as dependent on the government for our lives.

If there is enough good will on all sides, than we can create more positive environments in our First Nations through resource developments, so that our youth can get training and educational opportunities that can lead to real employment. Every municipality across the country can tax industry and develop an income from it but First Nations can't. We need to change that. If all of the stakeholders can meet at the table and work out good agreements then everyone can benefit. First Nation people are also very concerned about environment impacts because their traditional lives on the land must be protected. After the gold and diamonds are gone there must still be a life on the land.

I believe that with more opportunities and hope in First Nations the result will be fewer suicides. However, I also believe in the short term that our Native leadership and government must find the way to more effectively bring alcohol and drug treatment programs into our schools and communities. We need to do this quickly as too many of our young people are dying by their own hand. We can do something about it.

We need to convince our young people that they need to hang in there and have some patience as things will get better. We need to dedicate the finances, human resources and skills to help our youth right now. They have to remember that “Everything will work out in the end. If it does not work out, then it is not the end.”



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Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

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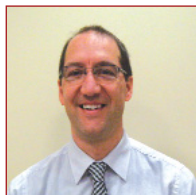
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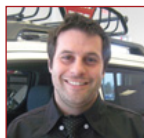


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